

Application No.: 10/044,258  
Amendment Dated: May 31, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of: March 24, 2005

MTS-082US1

**Remarks/Arguments:**

By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 16. Claims 9-15, 17 and 18 are pending.

**Claim Objections**

Claim 16 is objected to on informal grounds as being a duplicate claim of claim 15. Applicants have therefore cancelled claim 16.

**Double Patenting Rejection**

Claims 9-18 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,392,700. By this Amendment, Applicants are including a Terminal Disclaimer thereby to overcome the basis for the double patenting rejection. With the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In a telephone conference between the Examiner and Applicants' counsel, Daniel N. Calder, on March 31, 2005, the Examiner indicated that if Applicants file a Terminal Disclaimer and also cancel claim 16, the application should be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully

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submit that claims 9-15, 17, and 18 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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DNC/dmw/fp

Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer

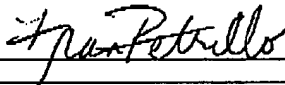
Dated: May 31, 2005

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May 31, 2005



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